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25 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, EE/G

SUBJECT : Meeting with General Heusinger, 30 October 1960

1. The following confirms an oral report on Subject made to Deputy Ops West, COS Germany on 31 October 1960.

2. The meeting, primarily a social call, with Heusinger was at his home, lasted approximately five hours, and most of the time included his wife and daughter.

Political

3. Following a lively give and take concerning the coming U.S. national election (nothing worthy of report on this theme except Heusinger claims the Germans would not welcome Adlai Stevenson as Secretary of State because they fear he is not sufficiently tough-minded towards the Soviets; in this context Heusinger likened Stevenson to MacMillan of the UK), the conversation led to the German political arena. Heusinger claims the general, over-all political situation in West Germany has not perceptibly changed or improved over the last few years. He feels that the political integration of Europe is as far away as ever. The West German government ties to NATO came up in context of the recent maneuvers of DeGaulle to give France a national nuclear deterrent capability. Heusinger was outspokenly critical of DeGaulle in this regard and opined that this step can only cost France considerable energy and expense leading to no real success and at the same time causing further weakening of the NATO alliance. Heusinger stated that the Federal Republic's entire defense posture is so closely aligned to the United States that should the future bring about a crumbling of NATO, West Germany would want to have a bilateral defense agreement. He claims that their defense policy is bipartisan and, therefore, will remain the same in the future regardless of which party wins the elections in 1961.

4. Heusinger prognosticated somewhat regarding the 1961 federal elections in West Germany. He thinks that this coming election may well be built upon "personality images" rather than stressing party platforms. (There is little difference today in the two major parties' announced policies; the two prominent leading candidates are Willy Brandt vs Conrad Adenauer.) Heusinger feels that the elections will be extremely close and Brandt may well have an edge because of Adenauer's age (65) and the fact that no one in the CDU has been identified as Adenauer's choice to succeed him. Regarding this latter point, the four most prominent potential candidates were described by Heusinger as follows:

a. Ludwig ERHARD - Somewhat of a problem because of the more recent economic developments in West Germany. There appears to be a general concern in the middle income bracket regarding the cost of living and the purchasing power of the mark. Heusinger feels West

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Germany is entering a period of minor recession which will redound to Erhard's disadvantage and will cause him to lose much of his prestige and popularity.

b. Eugen GERSTEMAIER - Still very popular and more recently has been played up in the West German press as an outspoken critic of the Soviets. The problem here is to get the populace to know him.

c. Gerhard SCHROEDER - Very competent individual who is well respected in the government, but too quiet, no color, and no popular appeal.

d. Franz-Josef STRAUSS - Not as popular with the masses as he has been due to some of his activities in defense planning which have been criticized in the Federal Republic. (Heusinger appeared to be reluctant to speak out on Strauss during this meeting.)

5. Heusinger is of the opinion that there will be further serious problems regarding the Berlin situation during 1961 and stated the opinion that the Soviets may well create a crisis mainly to influence the election.

Military

6. I will not attempt to report Heusinger's factual commentary as to equipment issued and the state of readiness of the military since this appears to be well covered in MAAG and other reports. However, Heusinger did state that a majority of senior German officers will be going into retirement, and this fact I have not noted in previous reports. He stated that some twelve top officers would retire by the end of their fiscal year (31 March 1961) and another eight or so during the next year. In the latter group, he mentioned General KAMMhuber and Admirals RUGE and WAGNER. He stated General SPEIDEL will probably be eased out of his position because of repeated demands by the French to reorganize the supra-structure of the NATO high command. The French (presently personally being pushed by DeGaulle) wish to simplify the command structure and have only one Chief of Allied Forces (who presumably would be French) assisted by three Service deputies (Army, Air, Navy). If this plan succeeds, the SPEIDEL position becomes superfluous and places the old general in a position of "four-star casual unassigned".

7. As has been reported elsewhere, Heusinger is being actively considered to replace the Dutch General B.R.P.F. HASSELMAN as Chairman of the NATO-Military Committee in Permanent Session, Washington, D.C. Heusinger claims he is being pushed for this assignment by the Chiefs of Staff of all of the smaller nations in NATO. He claims Adenauer and Strauss are somewhat reluctantly in favor, in that they see the advantage from a prestige point of view, but are not too happy having him leave his present position which they feel is more important. The NATO Chiefs of Staff vote on this appointment sometime during the early part of December 1960. If Heusinger gets it, he will transfer to Washington, D.C. sometime during March 1961. The appointment becomes effective April 1961. Heusinger expressed his concern with the advance

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publicity regarding this appointment and stated that it may well prejudice Germany's chances to take the Chairmanship at this time. He said the wounds of Nazi Germany and World War II are still too fresh in the minds of people, and giving this much advance publicity may cause sufficient adverse criticism to result in a decision by the NATO Chiefs of Staff to shelve consideration of West Germany for the Chairmanship at this time.

8. In the event Heusinger does get the appointment, he will be replaced by Lt. General Friederich FOERTSCH, presently Deputy Chief of Staff in Plans and Policy of SHAPE. Heusinger stated this reassignment of FOERTSCH is very secret in the government and known to only a few men, and he asked me to protect the sensitivity of the information. (This FOERTSCH is the brother of the old General FOERTSCH working for UPHILL)

Liaison with UPHILL

9. Heusinger stated that relations are very good between the Defense components and the UPHILL organization. He claims that many of the UPHILLers are personally distasteful to him and many of his senior people. He feels that they indulge in clandestinity for the sake of the exercise and generally give him the feeling of an unhealthy atmosphere. (Heusinger and several members of his staff were recently given a briefing in a hotel room, surrounded by members of the UPHILL organization, all of whom looked like dime-store novel spies, and at one point in the briefing a fairly senior officer of Heusinger's was asked to excuse himself for a part of the briefing. This incident is probably the one which most recently annoyed Heusinger and caused him to make the remark.)

unier, EE/Switzerland

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